



Recreation Commission Agenda and Report

General Order of Business

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| 1. Call to Order and Salute to Flag | 7. Action Items |
| 2. Roll Call | 8. Written Communications |
| 3. Consent Calendar | 9. Commission Referrals |
| 4. Approval of Minutes | 10. Commission and Staff Communications |
| 5. Oral Communications | 11. Adjournment |
| 6. Staff Presentations/Ceremonial Items | |

Order of Discussion

Generally, the order of discussion after introduction of an item by the Chair will include comments and information by staff followed by Recreation Commission questions or inquiries. The applicant, or their authorized representative, or interested citizens may then speak on the item. At the close of public discussion, the item will be considered by the Recreation Commission and action taken.

Consent Calendar

Items on the Consent Calendar (printed on separate sheet) are considered to be routine by the Recreation Commission and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commissioner or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Addressing the Recreation Commission

Any person may speak on any item under discussion by the Recreation Commission after receiving recognition by the Chair. Speaker cards will be available at the speaker's podium prior to and during the meeting. To address the Commission, a card must be submitted to the Clerk indicating name, address and the number of the item upon which a person wishes to speak. Speakers are required to line up to conserve time between speakers. When addressing the Recreation Commission, please walk to the rostrum located directly in front of the Commission. State your name and address. In order to ensure all persons have the opportunity to speak, a time limit may be set by the Chair for each speaker. In the interest of time, please limit your comments to new material; do not repeat what a prior speaker has said.

Oral Communications

Any person desiring to speak on a matter which is not scheduled on this agenda may do so under the Oral Communications section. Please be aware provisions of California Government Code Section 54954.2(b) prohibit the Recreation Commission from taking any immediate action on an item which does not appear on the agenda, unless it meets stringent requirements. The Chair may limit the length of your presentation.

Agenda and Report	•	Fremont Recreation Commission Meeting	•	May 16, 2012
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See Table of Contents for Meeting Location

See Reverse

Assistance

Assistance will be provided to those requiring accommodations for disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Interested persons must request the accommodation at least 2 working days in advance of the meeting by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department at (510) 494-4347.

Information

For Information on current agenda items please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (510) 494-4347.

Copies of the Agenda and Report are available at the Parks and Recreation Department administrative office at 3300 Capitol Avenue, Building B and are available at each Commission meeting. In addition, complete agenda packets will be available for review at the Commission meeting or at the Parks and Recreation Department office three days prior to Commission meetings.

Information about the City or items scheduled on the Agenda and Report may be referred to:

**Tracey Leung, Executive Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department
3300 Capitol Avenue, Building B
Fremont, California 94538**

Telephone: (510) 494-4347

Your interest in the conduct of your City's business is appreciated.

Recreation Commission	Department Staff
John Christman	Annabell Holland, Community Services Director
John Herndon	Kim Beranek, Recreation Superintendent II
Frank Pirrone	Esther deLory, Management Analyst II
Larry Thompson	Matt Herzstein, Water Park Operations Manager
Pavan Vedere	Kelly King, Recreation Superintendent II
Stephen Waterhouse	Kyle Kramer, Parks Superintendent
Laura Winter	Laurie Rogers, Recreation Superintendent II
	Lance Scheetz, Sales and Revenue Manager

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FREMONT RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3300 CAPITOL AVENUE, BUILDING “A”
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538
MAY 16, 2012 7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2012

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL ITEMS

6.1 DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PLAN PRESENTATION

Staff will give a brief presentation on the downtown community plan and design guideline update.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CONCEPT PLAN AND RECEIVE DONATION FOR THE NATURE LEARNING CENTER SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PWC) 8797

Recommend the City Council Approve the Concept Plan for the Nature Learning Center Site Improvements, Receive Donation, and allocate funds from Emerging Projects (Parks) Funds and allocate funds from Integrated Solid Waste Funds.

Contact Person:

Name:	Tara Bhuthimethee	Roger Ravenstad
Title:	Landscape Architect II	Senior Landscape Architect
Dept.:	Community Services	Community Services
Phone:	510-494-4738	510-494-4723
E-Mail:	tbhuthimethee@fremont.gov	rravenstad@fremont.gov

8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

9. COMMISSION REFERRALS

**9.1 RECREATION COMMISSIONER VEDERE REFERRAL FOR RESEARCH
ON DEVELOPING A CRICKET BATTING CAGE FACILITY.**

10. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA
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Name:	Tara Bhuthimethee	Roger Ravenstad
Title:	Landscape Architect II	Senior Landscape Architect
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Phone:	510-494-4738	510-494-4723
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Executive Summary: This report recommends approval of the site improvement plan for the Nature Learning Center in Central Park and the transfer of funds from Integrated Waste Management and Park Emerging Projects. In September 2011, Council awarded the contract for the Nature Learning Center modular building, which included limited landscaping, the building and sidewalk. Due to a generous donation from Thomas F. Faria Living Trust there are now enough funds available to fully complete an outdoor learning center environment. The project

includes the development of the entry; landscape enhancements including planting and hardscape; and other outdoor amenities to support the Nature Learning Center's activities and programs.

BACKGROUND: In December 2010, Council approved the construction of a modular Environmental Education Center in Central Park at an existing temporary trailer site between gates C and D on the northeast side of the old Swim Lagoon site (Exhibit A: Site Context Aerial). The plans included the construction of a modular building, connecting sidewalks, and a decomposed granite picnic area. In September 2011, Council approved the plans and specifications, and awarded the contract for the Nature Learning Center, project number PWC 8744. The building, hardscape areas, and picnic site were recently completed. The remainder of the site is undeveloped and was to be completed in a future phase when funding became available.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS: Proposed site improvements at the Nature Learning Center (Exhibit B: Nature Learning Center Improvements Plan) includes approximately 7,000 square feet of landscape enhancements including planting and hardscape; an enhanced entry landscape including a decorative building sign to identify the Nature Learning Center; and the following outdoor amenities to support the Nature Learning Center's activities and programs:

- California native sun and shade gardens
- Butterfly garden to the northeast of the building; garden benches
- Birdbath or focal element for butterfly garden
- Plant identification signage
- Two accessible raised planter beds
- Modular greenhouse
- Compost area with compost bins and worm bin
- Two recycled rain barrels with stands for rooftop water collection
- Colored trellis elements for a colorful and cohesive theme throughout the site
- Multiple picnic tables
- Open mulched area for freeform use and tent setup program
- Storage shed
- Outdoor classroom/amphitheater

Clean Water educational program: The City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES or stormwater permit) requires the City to conduct water quality education and outreach activities. To help comply with these requirements, the City created the free Clean Water Education Program (also known as Stivers Lagoon Field Trips), which has educated over 10,000 students, teacher and parents since its inception in FY 2003/04. The program consists of free two-hour hands-on learning field trips at the Nature Learning Center for public, private, and home schools with a focus on third grade students.

The proposed improvements will facilitate the expansion of new educational programs, including waste diversion and native plant stewardship. The following list includes examples of how some of the improvements can be used to create new programs.

- Native Garden –Would educate adults and students about drought tolerant landscaping. The space could host a class on native gardening and less-toxic pest management.

- Compost Area (including worm bins) – Would illustrate the value of composting and encourage students and adults to view discarded organic materials as a resource rather than a waste product. This location could host composting demonstration classes.
- Rain Barrels – Would demonstrate a low impact way to manage and reuse stormwater by using it to irrigate the gardens.
- Raised Garden Beds –Would provide a demonstration garden for youth and adult gardening classes.
- Butterfly Garden - Would educate adults and students on beneficial bugs, drought tolerant landscaping and less-toxic pest management. A potential class could be “Bird, Bugs, Bats and Bees – Beneficial Pollinators”.
- Green House – Would provide a controlled environment to propagate plants for the native and butterfly gardens and provide seedlings for special events (e.g. Earth Day) that would encourage citizens to start their own gardens.
- Outdoor Classroom - Would provide a space for hands-on activities (e.g. plant propagation) that are not suitable for an indoor classroom.
- Outdoor space would provide an opportunity to develop stronger relationships with volunteer groups (e.g. gardening groups, scouts. community groups).

Recreation Programs: In addition to the Stivers Lagoon Field Trips, Recreation Services also offers several revenue-generating programs such as Ask A Ranger, Junior Ranger, and other Summer Camp programs during school breaks.

Donation: This project is made possible by a donation from the Thomas F. Faria Living Trust, which funds projects that will provide long-term benefits to the community. Mr. Faria was an active user of Central Park and walked the lake at least two times a week. It is the wishes of the estate to quietly donate money for the betterment of the community. The estate is donating \$100,000 which will fund all of the projects hard costs.

FISCAL IMPACT: The budget breakdown for the site improvements is shown below:

Project site and landscape design:	\$15,149
Project management:	\$5,050
Irrigation consultant:	\$3,000
Construction (estimated bid):	\$100,997
Construction management/administration:	\$15,149
Project contingencies:	<u>\$19,695</u>
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$159,040

The amount of \$100,000 was donated from the Thomas F. Faria Living Trust. The balance of the budget, \$59,040, will be funded by \$20,000 from Integrated Waste Management operating fund 115 and \$39,040 from the Emerging Projects Reserve (PWC 7101) Fund 540 Park Facility Impact

fund. After the proposed transfer, the remaining balance in the Emerging Projects Reserve Fund 540 Park Facility Impact fund will be \$220,372.39.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: This project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Guideline 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. The proposed project consists of minor alterations for landscape and site improvements around the existing Nature Learning Center building.

ENCLOSURES:

- Exhibit A: Site Context Aerial
- Exhibit B: Nature Learning Center Improvements Plan, dated March 2012

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Recommend City Council approve Exhibit B, the Nature Learning Center Site Improvements Concept Plan.
2. Recommend City Council accept \$100,000 donation from Thomas F. Faria Living Trust and appropriate the funds to 502PWC8797.
3. Recommend City Council appropriate \$20,000 from Fund 115.4410 to 115PWC8797, and appropriate \$39,040 from 540PWC7101 to 540PWC8797.

8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

9. COMMISSION REFERRALS

9.1 RECREATION COMMISSIONER VEDERE REFERRAL FOR RESEARCH ON DEVELOPING A CRICKET BATTING CAGE FACILITY.

"As a follow up to the culmination of various cricket groups such as Indus Cricket and EYCA and other smaller individual groups requesting that a cricket batting cage facility be funded by the City, I would like to recommend that staff research the viability of developing the aforementioned Cricket batting cage facility within a City of Fremont park."

10. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT